

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13-27 are pending in the present application.

In this application, a Terminal Disclaimer was previously filed, via e-mail, on September 27, 2004. Included in this filing was an authorization to charge Deposit Account 02-2448 for the Terminal Disclaimer fee of \$ 110.00

However, during a telephone conversation on November 23, 2004, the Examiner notified Applicants' Representative that the Terminal Disclaimer was not received and entered into the application. It is also presumed that the aforementioned Deposit Account was not charged for the Terminal Disclaimer fee.

Thus, filed concurrently herewith is an executed Terminal Disclaimer along with a check for the Terminal Disclaimer fee. However, if it is discovered that the aforementioned Deposit Account was previously charged for this fee, Applicants respectfully request that such fee be credited to the same Deposit Account.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 13-37 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,754,174 (hereinafter '174). As indicated above, Applicants have filed concurrently herewith

a Terminal Disclaimer in relation to the '174 patent. In view of the Terminal Disclaimer, it is respectfully submitted that this double patenting rejection has been obviated. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 13-27 would be allowable if the double patenting rejection were overcome.

Conclusion

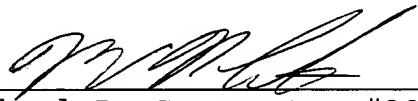
Entry of this Request for Reconsideration is respectfully requested in that it raises no new issues requiring further search and/or consideration. It is respectfully submitted that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly accommodated. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the pending application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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